

Application No.: 10/553,103
Amendment and Response dated March 19, 2008
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2007
Docket No.: 903-153 PCT/US
Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): Printing device for printing a substrate with a printing medium using the "drop-on-demand" principle, comprising a print head, which is arranged in such a manner that it can be moved to and fro substantially transversely with respect to the direction in which the substrate to be printed is conveyed and has at least one spray nozzle with an interacting piezoelectric element for generating and releasing a drop of the printing medium on demand by generating shockwaves in the printing medium to form said drop of the printing medium, the spray nozzle being in communication with a flexible working container, which is arranged at a fixed position, for degassed printing medium at a working height with respect to the spray nozzle which working height lies within a predetermined height range, in order to keep the pressure of the printing medium within a predetermined pressure range, wherein the working container is in communication with a releasable flexible reservoir for degassed printing medium.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 1, wherein the reservoir is positioned at a height difference above the working container.

Claim 3. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 1, wherein the printing device is provided with displacement means for moving the reservoir upwards with respect to the working container.

Claim 4. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 3, wherein the displacement means comprise support means, which can be tilted towards the working container, for supporting the reservoir.

Claim 5. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 4, wherein the support means comprise a support plate, which can rotate about a rotation point located in the vicinity of the end which faces the working container, and at the opposite end is connected to counter-pressure means, and which in the horizontal position bears against supporting means.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 5, wherein there are signalling means for remote detection of tilting of the support plate.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 6, wherein the signalling means are connected to a switch, which is energized in the event of the support plate tilting.

Claim 8. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 1, wherein the flexible reservoir is made from a metalized plastic film which is impervious to gas.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 1, wherein the reservoir has a height dimension and the working container has a height dimension, wherein the height dimension of the reservoir, in the completely filled state, is smaller than the height dimension of the working container.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 1, wherein the reservoir has a front surface and a rear surface, which are connected to one another along the periphery, an outlet opening with connecting means for coupling to the working container being provided in a peripheral part.

Claim 11. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 10, wherein the peripheral part is shaped in such a manner that the inner wall of the reservoir has a gradual transition in the direction of the outlet opening.

Claim 12. (Previously presented): Printing device according to claim 10, wherein the front surface of the reservoir has a length and a width, wherein the ratio of the length of the front surface of the reservoir to its width is greater than 2.5.

Claim 13. (Currently amended): Flexible reservoir, filled with degassed printing medium, intended for a printing device according to claim 1, which reservoir comprises a front surface and a rear surface made from a gas-impervious, metalized plastic film, which are connected to one another along the periphery, a closable outlet opening with connecting means for coupling to a working container being provided in a peripheral part,

wherein the front surface has a length and a width, wherein the ratio of the length of the front surface of the reservoir to its width is greater than 2.5.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): Reservoir according to claim 13, ~~wherein the front surface has a length and a width,~~ wherein the ratio of the length of the front surface of the reservoir to its width is greater than 3 ~~2.5~~.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): Reservoir according to claim 13, wherein the peripheral part is shaped in such a manner that the inner wall of the reservoir has a gradual transition in the direction of the outlet opening.

Claims 16-17. (Canceled)